

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented)      A suspension comprising:  
    a metal material defining at least a portion of the  
        suspension;  
    an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and  
    a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight  
        ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the  
        same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal  
        material , the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025  
        cm.
2. (Previously Presented)      The suspension of claim 1 wherein  
the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the  
adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load  
beam.
3. (Previously Presented)      The suspension of claim 1 wherein  
the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the  
adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base  
area.
4. (Previously Presented)      The suspension of claim 1 wherein  
the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding  
area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second  
bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding  
area and the second bonding area.
5. (Previously Presented)      The suspension of claim 1 wherein  
the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding  
area, the composite material defines a base area having a second  
bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding  
area and the second bonding area.

6. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.
7. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.
8. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.
9. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.
10. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.
11. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.
12. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.
13. (Previously Presented) A suspension comprising:
  - a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
  - a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm.
14. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21. (Previously Presented) A suspension comprising:  
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and  
stiffener means formed of a composite material for  
increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the  
suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body  
by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025  
cm.

22. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)